

MINISTRY MATTERS

- IN THE CONGREGATION AND BEYOND -

SUPPLY PASTOR SCHEDULE

April 4: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion
April 11: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion
April 18: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion
April 25: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion

BULLETIN OF REPORTS - 2020



Our 2020 Bulletin of Reports is available to our members upon request. Please call or email the church office (stjohns@epix.net) and one will be mailed to you.

PRAYER CIRCLE CHAIN

Kimberly Deliman has agreed to be the contact person for the Prayer Circle Chain. She needs your help! In order to get the needed information to everyone involved, Kim would like to update the Prayer Circle List.

If you are interested in being a member of Prayer Circle, contact Kim Deliman at 570-788-4459 and leave a message with your contact information or call the church office. at: 570-578-6952. This position does not require you to serve on the board.

- Contact me about my request

UPCOMING PANCAKE and SAUSAGE SUPPER

April 17, 2021



Once again, Donna and Jim Cassarella and Betty and Don Wenner, Sr. are coordinating our drive through Pancake and Sausage Supper

DRIVE THRU "TAKE OUT"

DINNER = \$ 11.00

PICKUP 1-5pm

Call for tickets;
Betty 570-788- 3838
Donna 5707881483

PRAYER REQUEST/CONCERN

If you have a Prayer Request/Concern, contact Kim Deliman. Please provide the following information: The person/people, causes, and concerns in need of prayers. Prayer Circle would like to keep up to date to fulfill the needs of the church, community, and world in which we live.

I wish to be a member of the Prayer Circle Chain

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Also provide how you would like your Prayer Request/Concern to be communicated:

I request prayers for:

Name: _____

Concerns: _____

_____ Place on the email Prayer Chain

_____ Include in prayers during worship

BEYOND VIOLENCE WOMEN'S SHELTER

Beyond Violence



Throughout now through April, we will continue to collect items for *Beyond Violence, Inc.*, the women's domestic violence

shelter in Berwick. There is a great need for these items as shelter is provided for women and children. More people are finding the strength to escape their abuse and get back on their feet.

Donations of *items, food and clothing* for the women and children are appreciated. If you choose to donate an item, the following is their "wish list": Paper towels, cleaning supplies, diapers and wipes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, women's hygiene products, towels and wash cloths, foil and Saran Wrap, large freezer bags, toilet paper, paper plates, large storage bins, laundry baskets, light bulbs, batteries (all sizes), and gift certificates (grocery store). A donation box is located in the back of the St. Stephen's room. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please be sure to mark it accordingly. Checks

should be made payable to the church, but please indicate *for Beyond Violence* on the memo line. LCW will also be making a monetary donation. St. Johns has supported this shelter for almost 20 years. Let's not let this pandemic keep us from doing what our Good Lord has called us to do: "Love our Neighbors".

Any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Sims at 570-436-812

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Folks,

I have some great news. It's time to get your singing voices back in shape. Your Council has for the last two weeks discussed whether it's time to bring singing and responding back into the service.

This past meeting after Pastor Kaufman brought response to emails she sent out to those pastors that Supply for us and other colleagues. It was noted that there really is a full range of what churches are doing or not doing during their service. Pastor and I meet with Pastor Mundy and his wife, thanks for the great snacks, about the council's decision. They are on board and also looking forward to the changes. So, it was decided that starting Palm Sunday responding to bold print and singing, two verses, softly under your mask is approved.

However social distancing, wearing of the mask and the other guidelines are still required.

As this is the first step in trying to get back to a normal service. No one is sure what "that" normal is going to be, but we are working hard to get there. Council will continue discussing how the changes are going and if any further changes are needed. So, please do your part in being safe and we will get back to normal in the coming months.

We really do need volunteers. So please as you're ready to return to church and its other activities please consider joining one or more. Most of the Committees have a lot of the same folks in them. Most of the events that were in place prior to closing are still going to happen. So, join us in helping **our** church grow and spreading God's word.

See you soon and Godspeed,

Don Jr.

SPRING SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE

Due to Covid restrictions, there will not be a Shoo-Fly Pie Bake this spring.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

We have heard time & time again about how beautiful and well-kept our cemetery is. Spring is right around the corner and that means it is almost time for the cemetery crew to begin their work for the season. We often take for granted the hard work and endless hours that go into keeping our cemetery beautiful year after year. **To help with the upkeep, please consider giving a monetary donation "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" a loved one.** Checks can be made payable to "St. John's Lutheran & Reformed Cemetery Association" or included with your weekly offering (please include a notation with your offering).

BEAR CREEK CAMP 2021 "GOD FOREVER – GOOD FOREVER"



The schedule for summer camping is now available on their website.

bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org

There are camp sessions for various age groups ranging from Grade 1 through Grade 12.

Several of our youth enjoy attending Bear Creek Camp in the summer and always have a great time!

The programs are centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development.

The 2021 summer program will explore the ways God was faithful to people throughout the Bible and the ways God's love impacts our lives today. We can carry God's love into the future. His love and faithfulness are with us all the time.

Registration Update Highlights:

Many age groups are filling quickly and it's important to place your camper on the waitlist as more spots may open up.

- We will begin considering the reallocation of cabins between age groups on April 19, 2021.
- Multi-session registrations not available until May 1, 2021.

Please refer to

bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org or call 570.472.3741.

Reminder: LCW has

offered to pay \$ 200 off the tuition for any of our youth members that wish to attend. Please contact the church office if you plan on attending.



SCOUTING

SCOUTS BSA and Cub Scouts have resumed in person meetings. If anyone is interested, meetings are Monday nights. For more information, contact Jen Cipriani at 570-578-6952. Scouting is open to boys and girls ages Kindergarten through High School.

"God's work. Our hands."

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 12**, when congregations of the ELCA will come together for "God's work. Our hands."

PHOTOS, PLEASE



A reminder that we would love to share more photos of our activities in our church newsletter, and both photos and videos on our Facebook page and the church website (with permission). We would appreciate your help. If you have footage from a church event or activity (even if it's just members enjoying fellowship or working around the church), please email to the church office at: stjohns@epix.net or you can download and message them to us through our Facebook page. Thank you!

EASTER DONATIONS

VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: Our church has been asked to provide **60 cans of peas** for this year's Easter meal basket at our local valley food pantry. The deadline to reach our goal is *March 21*. Please place your donations on the table in the Narthex. Any donations of **coffee and/or tea** would be appreciated, as well. Thank you, as always, for your generous support of this ministry!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawl ministry will be resuming on April 7, 2021 at 9:30am at the church. We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to join us and we are willing to teach.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR APRIL

This month's altar flowers are placed to the Glory of God and:

April 4 – Easter Flowers by LCW

April 11 – In loving memory of Jim Phile by Patty Phile

April 18 – In memory of Loved ones by Janet Brady

April 25 – TBD

* There are several Sundays available to sponsor altar flowers. If you are interested, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the St. Stephen's Room or email the church (stjohns@epix.net) The cost is \$24.00 and can be mailed to: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Attn. Jennifer Cipriani/Flowers P.O. Box 2 772 St. Johns Road Saint Johns, PA 18247

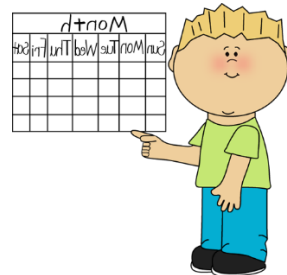


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for you to come join one or several of our Church Ministry Teams! Be a part of the many opportunities these teams provide. We want and need you to join us in serving Gods calling with your time and talents to help our church continue to grow in making this a place to share and express his love. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATE

Hopefully, we are planning to have **VBS**, Vacation Bible School, August 2nd to August 6th. Watch for more information!



PASTOR'S DESK
BY PASTOR MICHELE KAUFMAN

All of his life it had been there. There was always a specter of threat hanging over Jesus. In the beginning, there was no room in the inn. Herod sought to kill the child, so the family fled to Egypt. As a child he was left among the crowds in Jerusalem. Following his baptism, he was led out into the wilderness where he met with Satan.

Then he began his ministry. Crowds gathered and followed him everywhere. They sought him out because he offered them something they had never experienced before. But then he begins to challenge the status quo; he exposes the truth and confronts the establishment. They sought ways to entrap him, but he always seemed to turn the tables on them. Gradually they came out from the shadows, actively seeking to destroy him.

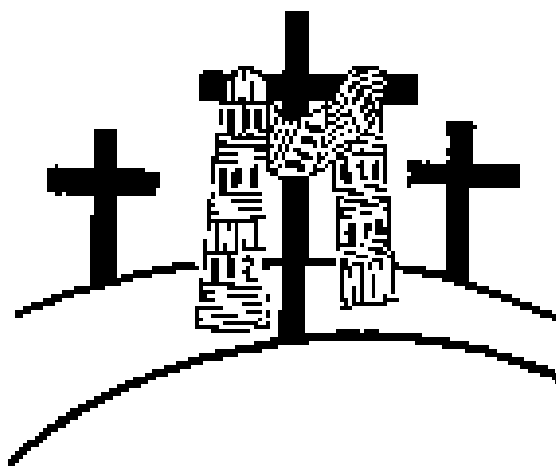
There was always that cloud of threat, the dark background of betrayal, the harsh words of denial, the aloneness. That was the way it was for him. Still he persisted and pressed on. He remained forever focused on his mission. Despite everything he remained true to his calling. Even when the storm clouds were gathering for the final blow, he hung there and prayed that God might forgive them for "they knew not what they had done."

Ever since that fateful day we have sung and spoken of his exultation. In Him, we have come to know the heart of God and to know that there is one who has gone the ultimate mile on our behalf. The story of Jesus' death is not the last sad chapter of his life, but rather the climax and first chapter in the life of the Church.

It was for this purpose that Jesus came into the world. The Easter event is the story of how God acted to make all creation new in order to transform humanity and redeem the world. In what seems to be a story of death comes life; life anew, life restored, life in the world in which we live and life in the world to come.

EASTER is at the very heart of our identity as Christians. We all know the story and how it turns out, but we need to hear it again and again. We need to be reminded what our faith is based upon. We need to be reminded of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvation he brings.

Holy Week can be very dramatic and meaningful if we experience the events from Palm Sunday through Easter morn. Join us as we make our way to the foot of the cross and to the Garden on Easter morn.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING of March 11, 2021

FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT DON WENNER, JR

Highlights from the Church Council Minutes held Thursday, March 11, 2021

Those in attendance were Jim Cassarella, Joyce Ray, Don Wenner, Jr., Donna Cassarella, Patty Phile, Janet Brady, Carolyn Kuehn, Jennifer Cipriani, Kim Deliman, Kim Washko, Pastor Michele Kaufman and Sheila Maslo. Jan Jacobus had an excused absence.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- * The Synod Assembly will be held the first week-end in June.
- * The Mission District will have their meeting on "Zoom".

Learning Ministry -

- * They will talk about VBS.
- * Baskets of Blessings to be delivered during Holy Week to families in need. These baskets will have a canned ham and dinner items for Easter. The baskets will be blessed on Palm Sunday.
- * The Sunday School children will do hand motions to a song.
- * Volunteers are needed to help with worship duties. People are needed to read on Sundays.

OLD BUSINESS:

- * A Finance Committee is being formed. Kim Washko, Sheila Maslo, Don Wenner, Jr. and Jennifer Cipriani will be on this committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Jennifer Cipriani mentioned that our three CDs in Mission Investment are up for renewal and tomorrow, March 12th, would be the last day that we could reinvest the money in those CDs into another company with better rates or we could allow it to roll over into the same types of CDs within Mission Investments.

OUR CHURCH CONTINUES TO LIVE THROUGH THE COVID PANDEMIC. PHYSICAL DISTANCING HAS CHANGED THE WAY WE WORSHIP AND SERV, BUT THE NEED IS GREAT, AND GOD'S CHUCH IS AT WORK.

